

May 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the New Richmond Utility Commission was held on May 4, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. at the Civic Center.

Pat Becker called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jerry Frey, Bob Mullen, Gerry Warner, Dan Casey, and Pat Becker.

Others Present: Sean Lentz, Ehlers & Associates, and Craig Yehlik, Chief of Police

A motion was made by Bob Mullen to approve the agenda, seconded by Dan Casey, and carried.

A motion was made by Gerry Warner to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting, approve bills and disbursements, seconded by Dan Casey, and carried.

Public Comment:

Mike Darrow welcomed the new Chief of Police, Craig Yehlik.

2016 Water/Sewer Revenue Bond – Ehlers and Associates:

Sean Lentz, Ehlers and Associates, presented a preliminary bond issue for the water and sewer projects, which includes this year's projects, and the refinancing that was discussed at previous meeting. Sean went over the exhibits with the Utility Commission, showing the savings possible by refinancing the old debt with the new debt. Information will be presented to the City Council workshop on May 23, 2016. Recommendation will be brought back to the Utility Commission on June 1, 2016. If approved, the bond sale would take place on July 11, 2016.

Department Reports:

Mike Darrow, Utility Manager:

The street light project on 140th Street will be on the City Council's May 23, 2016 agenda. Both Tom Rickard and Jeremiah Wendt stated residential construction is increasing, especially in Fox Run and Whispering Prairie. Construction for Taco Bell should begin in the near future. The Utility picnic is scheduled for the first Tuesday in August, corresponding with National Night Out. Staff is currently working on a Community Development Block Grant with the school. Going through with an agreement on the demolition of the Commons Building. Staff will be meeting with staff from River Falls to talk about their success stories on selling solar panels, and the sharing of information. The City of New Richmond has taken over the New Richmond Cemetery project. This is a large, unexpected project, and staff has once again stepped up in anticipation of Memorial Day, to complete what needs to be done. Utility Commissioners were asked to meet with Andrew Lammers if they were interested in receiving an iPad or Microsoft Surface.

Bob Meyer, Water Superintendent:

Bob asked Craig Yehlik, Chief of Police, if he would have police staff contact the water department whenever they notice a red light blinking at any of the lift stations. Craig asked if he could receive a list of lift station locations. Spring directional flushing has begun. Locates are ongoing. During the month of May, extra water samples are needed to meet DNR requirements.

Steve Skinner, Lead Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator:

Jeremiah Wendt gave an update for Steve Skinner who was attending SCADA system training in Madison. The UV disinfection season is underway. The UV bulbs are taken out in the winter and put back in the spring. Some issues developed with a slide gate, which will have to be replaced, but everything is back up and running. A new fire suppression system was installed. A new SCADA computer was installed with a new dialer system. The new dialer has the capability of giving more detailed information when issues occur.

Tom Rickard, Electric Superintendent:

The 115th Street lighting is complete. The new lighting being installed on Roosevelt should be completed by the end of the week. Numerous new services are being installed. The remaining ITRON meters were delivered, so the meter conversion can continue. The LED conversion is complete except for some decorative lighting.

Jeremiah Wendt, Director of Public Works:

A brief update was given on the staffing situation. Dave Pufall and Pat Howell job shadowed Marty Powers for one week to obtain as much information as possible on the cross connection process. Dave Pufall has expressed an interest in moving to the Water Department. For now, Dave will take the lead on the construction inspections for the street and utility projects. Then transition him to the water department, and post for a second operator position at the WWTP. Street and Utility construction will begin on June 6, 2016. First areas of construction will be Paperjack Drive and N. Starr Avenue.

Weston Arndt, WPPI Energy Services Rep:

School Visits

Our outreach with the elementary schools in New Richmond for our water, wastewater, and electric departments is wrapping up. Starr Elementary PowerTown is scheduled for May 4, and the Water and Wastewater presentation is scheduled for Starr on May 6.

Member Loan

A member loan application was submitted to WPPI Energy for \$280,592 for new streetlighting to be installed with the 2016 street projects. The WPPI Energy member loan offers 0% financing for 10 year terms for utility or municipal measures targeting energy efficiency or strategic projects. Each member was allowed to request a maximum of \$500,000 of combined funding. This request from New Richmond will cap the City and Utilities at the maximum.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Gerry Warner to adjourn, seconded by Dan Casey, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 a.m.

Pat Becker, President

Gerry Warner, Secretary